

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently amended) An immunoreactive peptide that is ~~homologous with the a~~ portion of the AA 12 to AA 235 region of *varicella zoster* virus (VZV) VP26 protein, wherein said portion is at least 10 amino acids but less than 223 amino acids long.

16. (Previously presented) An immunoreactive peptide as described in claim 15, wherein the peptide is recognized by antibodies that are directed against varicella zoster virus (VZV) but not by antibodies that are directed against other herpes viruses.

Claims 17-22 (Canceled).

23. (New) The immunoreactive peptide of claim 15, wherein said portion is from 10 to 26 amino acids long.

24. (New) The immunoreactive peptide of claim 15, wherein said portion is from 10 to 50 amino acids long.

25. (New) An immunoreactive peptide that is a portion of the AA12 to AA235 region of varicella zoster virus (VZV) VP25 protein, wherein said portion is from 50 to 223 amino acids long.